DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 405 822 IR 018 262

AUTHOR Creighton, William J.; And Others
TITLE C-CUE: A Regional Consortium in Action.
PUB DATE 96
NOTE 7p.; In: Association of Small Computer Users in Education (ASCUE) Summer Conference Proceedings (29th, North Myrtle Beach, SC, June 9-13, 1996); see IR 018 247.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Computer Oriented Programs; *Computer Uses in Education; *Consortia; Cooperative Planning; Cooperative Programs; Higher Education; *Information Technology; *Intercollegiate Cooperation; *Shared Resources and Services; Technological Advancement; *Undergraduate Study
IDENTIFIERS Pennsylvania (West); West Virginia

ABSTRACT

The Consortium for Computing in Undergraduate Education, Inc. (C-CUE) is a regional association of colleges and universities committed to developing and expanding the appropriate use of computing and other information technologies in undergraduate education. C-CUE consists of 19 colleges and universities in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The collaborative work of the Consortium has elevated the understanding and uses of technology in classrooms across member campuses. By simply sharing information and resources, faculty members have become aware of new and beneficial ways to appropriately incorporate technology into their courses which, in turn, directly benefits students. The information shared at the quarterly meetings, through workshops, and by e-mail provides an important perspective and regularly influences decisions. The single most important benefit for maintaining institutional membership in C-CUE may be the opportunities that exist for getting sound technological insight and advice from trusted colleagues. A brief history, list of members, activities and programs, sample meeting agenda, and description of site assessments are provided. (SWC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 405 822

C-CUE
A Regional Consortium in Action

William J. Creighton, Director
Academic Computing Services
Indiana University of PA
Indiana, PA 15705
Phone: 412-357-2975
BITNET: CREIGHTN@IUP
Internet: creightn@grove.iup.edu

Daniel Faulk
Director of Administrative Computing
Washington and Jefferson College
60 South Lincoln Street
Washington, PA 15301
Phone: 412-223-6514
Internet: dfaulk@washjeff.edu

Frederick Jenny
Chairman, Computer Systems Department
Grove City College
100 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127-2104
Phone: 412-458-2071
Internet: jenny@boaz.gcc.edu

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
C.P. Singer
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

INTRODUCTION

The Consortium for Computing in Undergraduate Education, Inc., is a regional association of colleges and universities committed to developing and expanding the appropriate use of computing and other information technologies in undergraduate education.

Consisting of 19 colleges and universities in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the Consortium promotes networking among its members and provides mechanisms for sharing information, expertise, and other resources by organizing and supporting workshops and seminars, providing references to consultants, providing a forum for collaboration among its members, negotiating with vendors, and publishing an educational computing newsletter.

The Consortium's goals are to promote and provide ways for faculty to develop expertise in instructional technology, information and support for Academic Computing staffs, information and support to college administrators charged with making decisions about using instructional technologies, the exchange of information about educational computing and other instructional technologies among the members, professional exchange and collaboration by the member's faculty and staffs, and access to equipment and software through purchasing contracts negotiated with vendors.

IR018267

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BRIEF HISTORY

The Consortium for Computing in Undergraduate Education, C-CUE, began in the spring of 1984, when the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation awarded a grant to Carnegie Mellon University. The purpose of this grant was to provide staff support for a group of fourteen colleges interested in developing academic computing. The project, entitled the Benedum Regional College Computer Enrichment Program, held several seminars at Carnegie Mellon and a series of discipline-based software workshops at the participating colleges. A monthly newsletter was also established. These activities were the effort of faculty representatives from the participating colleges and the administrative staff at Carnegie Mellon University.

In December 1986, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation gave a second grant to Carnegie Mellon University to establish an association for academic computing. The group named itself The Consortium for Computing in Undergraduate Education; C-CUE. The Governing Board adopted a set of bylaws in the spring of 1987, which now serve as the operating guide-lines for the Consortium.

While the relationship with Carnegie Mellon had proven fruitful from the membership, the original intent of the organization was to become self-supporting. To that end, C-CUE decided to become an independent organization. In 1992, C-CUE incorporated, and soon thereafter, obtained non-profit, tax exempt status. C-CUE, as an organization, now draws its strength from the collaboration between the member institutions.

MEMBERSHIP

The primary benefit of belonging to C-CUE comes from the sharing of information. It is generally a comfort to have opportunities to discuss ideas or problems with a friend or group of friends with experiences in like situations that they can draw upon. C-CUE provides such a group of friends and organizes them into a community bound together by similarities in the mission of their institutions and a common interest in using technology to address the educational mission of those institutions. Having an opportunity to discuss issues of technology in a non-threatening, supportive environment such as this can provide value far beyond the cost of membership.

No member of C-CUE comes to the group with special rights, privileges, or entitlement. Each member comes expecting to find new ideas for solving problems they may be experiencing or simply looking for ideas about how others are using software in the classroom. Common practice is to have a quarterly meeting organized around these themes or any other topic of technological interest or benefit.

Membership in C-CUE has its obligations. The consortium is a self-supporting, member-operated, non-profit organization. Membership fees are low. Continued operation in this manner requires commitment on the part of member institutions. Specifically organizational governance, encouraging participation by faculty, and a willingness to host organizational events are important contributions made voluntarily.

MEMBERS

Currently there are 19 member institutions in C-CUE. Those institutions are: Bethany College, Chatham College, Davis & Elkins College, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Gannon University, Geneva College, Grove City College, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, LaRoche College, Mercyhurst College, Saint Vincent College, Salem-Teikyo University, Seton Hill College, Slippery Rock University, The University of Charleston, Washington & Jefferson College, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Westminster College, and Wheeling Jesuit College. These colleges and universities range in size from quite small to mid-size. Some are located in very rural areas, some are situated in very urban areas, most are located in more of a small town environment.

All institutions from West Virginia, western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, whose primary interest is in undergraduate education, are invited to apply for membership in C-CUE. Membership is maintained on an annual basis; the fiscal year starts on July 1. The initial membership is for two years, and the current membership fee is $250.

ACTIVITIES and PROGRAMS

Members of the consortium collaborate on a number of activities that are intended to provide general benefit. It is, for instance, important for each member institution to have a viable access to electronic mail. Cooperation of member institutions willing to act as hosts for other consortium members allowed a number of schools the opportunity to become active in the use of email far sooner than could have been the case if they had not been C-CUE members.

The attitude within the consortium is quite familial. Open sharing of knowledge and expertise is possibly the most valuable benefit for many. Knowing who can be contacted for response to a specific question is facilitated through publication of a resource directory. Sharing takes place in other ways also. Sometimes it is important to know which vendors are worthy or unworthy of your trust. Other times all members can benefit by negotiating an improved purchasing arrangement with a vendor as a group rather than as individual institutions. Information about site licensing, educational discounts and related vendor relations is compiled and provided to governing board representatives to assist with their campus purchasing decisions.

A free subscription to the Consortium newsletter, On-CUE, is provided for each institution. A copy is e-mailed to all governing board members who make it available to interested parties on their campuses.

MEETINGS

C-CUE meetings and workshops are concurrently held four times each academic year; October, December, February and March. C-CUE board members and interested faculty from member institutions are invited to all sponsored events.

The October, December and February workshops each focus on a specific discipline. Workshops are normally divided into morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session is generally a presentation on how technology can be used to enhance instruction in a particular

academic area. Such topics as business, writing, education, physics, art, biology and mathematics have been presented recently. In fact, over the last ten years, workshops have been held in nearly every major discipline. A general session to advance the awareness on a relevant topic for both guests and governing board members is also typical.

During the afternoon sessions, faculty members have the opportunity to explore the workshop topic in greater depth, usually from a "hands on" perspective. At the same time, board members conduct their quarterly business meeting. These meetings follow a standard form of old business discussion, reports from program chairs, and discussion and action on new business. Specific topics of business are handled at particular meetings. For example, officers are always elected during the December meeting, workshop topics for the following year are decided at the February meeting and membership dues are reviewed and set at the March meeting. From time to time, special workshops are sponsored in addition to the regular workshops. These special topics have included using the World Wide Web, writing HTML files, and developing network infrastructures.

The agenda from a recent quarterly meeting held at Washington & Jefferson College demonstrates a usual format:

AGENDA

9:00 - 9:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast
The Commons Lounge

9:45 - 9:55 Welcome message
Dr. G. Andrew Rembert
Vice President and Dean of the College
The Commons Lounge

10:00 - 11:50 Biology Workshop - Morning Session
Dieter-Porter Hall

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
The Commons Lounge

1:15 - 3:30 Biology Workshop - Afternoon Session
Dieter-Porter Hall

1:15 - 3:30 C-CUE Governing Board Meeting
The Commons Lounge

Host workshops and presentations are among the most enjoyable and rewarding opportunities offered by the consortium. Each governing board meeting is held at a member institution. A previously determined and agreed upon theme for the meeting serves as a workshop focus. Members, either the host or others, then arrange a series of presentations on the topic chosen as a theme. Attendees benefit from the sharing of information. Presenters benefit from professional fulfillment. Generally the workshops are the main attraction at each quarterly meeting.

The following represents topics that have been featured at workshops at various institutions:

On Computing in the Curriculum
- Business, Economics & Accounting
- Chemistry, Biology & Health Sciences
- Pennsylvania Association of College Chemistry Teachers Software Fair
- Writing in the Curriculum
- Computing in Teacher Education
- Computerizing a Writing Program
- Teaching Math with Computers and Calculators

On Issues and Policies
- Issues in Computing in Liberal Arts Colleges
- Meeting the Challenge: Integrating Computing into the Curriculum
- Resources for High-Risk Students

On Information Technologies
- C-CUE/PRLC Library Automation Seminar, Pre-Conference Session: The Library and Academic Computing.
- C-CUE/PRLC Library Automation Seminar, Post-Conference Workshop on Multimedia
- Desktop Publishing
- Strategic Network Planning
- Tools for Scholars

For Administrators & Support Staffs
- Current Directions in Information Technology, presented by CAUSE
- Silicon Basement Seminar: Planning for Effective Computing in the Curriculum
- Networking in the Independent Colleges

The March C-CUE workshop is always a jointly sponsored event with The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), Educom and CAUSE. The four organizations together, with CIC as the lead organizer, host the annual Information Technologies Workshop in Pittsburgh, Pa. Representatives from more than 130 colleges and universities across the country attended the 7th annual event in March, 1996. This year's workshop sessions included multimedia classrooms and media distribution, the educational vision of the Internet, telecommunications integration, and student learning with today's technology. The March C-CUE board meeting is held immediately after the workshop is concluded.

SITE ASSESSMENTS

When requested, the Consortium conducts assessments of computing environments at undergraduate colleges and universities. The assessments are designed to produce a focused picture of the computing facilities at an institution, what access faculty, staff and students have to these facilities, the ways and the extent to which computers are being used in academic and administrative departments, and the extent to which computing planning and support mechanisms are in place. Where deficiencies are discovered, recommendations are made and alternatives are suggested.

The assessment is composed of three parts. There is first a comprehensive questionnaire to be completed by members of the administration, staff, and faculty, and returned to C-CUE along

with a copy of a recent academic catalog. Second, a three or four member team conducts a two-day site visit at the college to view facilities and discuss the role of computing with faculty members, administrators and staff. Students can also be interviewed at the request of the institution. And thirdly, the collected information is analyzed, and a written report prepared. Copies of the completed report are typically sent to the institution's president and chief academic officer. The assessment team will be prepared to present preliminary findings to those officers or to another designated person or group at the end of the second day of interviews. The completed assessment report is sent within 30 days of the site visit.

Typically C-CUE does not assess the suitability of specific computer applications programs in the academic programs of individual departments. The use of computing in academic programs at an institution is compared to national trends in academic computing. The typical cost of the assessment for member institutions is $0.50 per FTE student, plus travel and related expenses for each assessment team member. C-CUE pays the expenses of the team members, then includes these expenses on its itemized invoice to the institution.

CONCLUSION

C-CUE has become a valuable asset to its member institutions. The collaborative work of the Consortium has elevated the understanding and uses of technology in classrooms across member campuses. By simply sharing information and resources, faculty members have become aware of new and beneficial ways to appropriately incorporate technology into their courses, which in turn, directly benefits students.

The information shared at the quarterly meetings, through workshops, and by email provides an important perspective and regularly influences decisions. The single most important benefit for maintaining institutional membership in C-CUE may be the opportunities that exist for getting sound technological insight and advice from trusted colleagues. While advice can be found in many places, sound advice which can be gathered and gained from a trusted group of friends has a value beyond price.

Note: Additional information about C-CUE is located at C-CUE's Web site: www.c-cue.org